

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton**  
**Full Committee Markup of H.R. 6, the “Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act,”**  
**H.R. 2689, the “Energy Savings Through Public-Private Partnerships Act,” and H.R. 4092,**  
**the “Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2014”**  
**April 29, 2014**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Today our pursuit of commonsense energy policies continues as we consider three bills that will lead to better use of the nation’s energy resources. It is also a good day for bipartisanship, as we have cooperated across the aisle on all three bills, and continue to do so.

Two of the bills continue this committee’s success with energy efficiency legislation. On March 5, 191 Republicans and 184 Democrats joined together to pass H.R. 2126, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2014. Today we look to build upon that success. H.R. 2689, the Energy Savings Through Public-Private Partnerships Act, authored by Reps. Cory Gardner and Peter Welch, facilitates the use of energy savings contracts to encourage private sector investment to upgrade the energy and water efficiency of federal facilities. H.R. 4092, the Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2014, will help our nation’s schools reduce energy costs and save taxpayers money by establishing an online resource at DOE to disseminate information about available federal programs that can be used to save energy and costs.

The final bill we will consider is H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act. This bill is not just smart domestic energy policy that will help boost our economy, but it has the added benefit of helping many of our allies and trading partners all over the world. I would like to thank Mr. Gardner for sponsoring this bipartisan bill and for his efforts to work across the aisle as we work to move this bill forward. The committee will consider a manager’s amendment tomorrow morning that I am hopeful will gain widespread bipartisan support.

This committee has conducted several hearings on the subject of LNG exports, and we also held a forum last October with officials from 11 of our allies. At that forum, we heard directly from three Eastern European governments dependent on Russia for natural gas, and they told us that the very signal that America is serious about entering natural gas markets would immediately reduce Russia’s negotiating leverage and pricing power. H.R. 6 would immediately send that signal the moment it is enacted, and the benefits would grow as LNG exports increase in the years ahead.

The Energy Information Administration made clear that America possesses a surplus of natural gas above domestic demand and DOE’s study concluded that a market-based export policy, such as that embodied in H.R. 6, would have net benefits for the U.S. economy, including more jobs. We have the opportunity to strengthen our economy by exporting our surplus of natural gas to our allies who need it. The current Ukraine crisis further puts the spotlight on a policy that already makes good sense both here and abroad.

The U.S. and EU recently issued this joint statement: “The situation in Ukraine proves the need to reinforce energy security in Europe, and we are considering new collaborative efforts to achieve this goal...We welcome the prospect of U.S. LNG exports in the future since additional global supplies will benefit Europe and other strategic partners.” H.R. 6 offers a solution to accomplish this goal. I urge my colleagues to support all three of these sensible energy bills as we strengthen our record of bipartisan success.

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